

REMARKS

Claims 14-26 were previously pending in the application. By the Amendment, the specification and Claims 14-16 and 24 are currently amended, Claims 25 and 26 are canceled without prejudice, and claims 17-23 remain unchanged. Reconsideration in view of the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

The claims stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Machado (U.S. Patent No. 6,764,321).

Independent claim 14 recites a connector device for the production of an electrical connection between a mains cable and a cable harness in an electrical device, especially a household appliance. The device includes a first plug-in connector including connection elements coupleable to the cable harness. The connection elements effect a detachable mechanical and electrical connection between the first plug-in connector and the cable harness. The device also includes a second plug-in connector establishing a detachable mechanical and electrical connection to the mains cable, where the second plug-in connector is provided for a plurality of different mains cables and has an identical connector configuration for each of the different mains cables.

Independent claim 24 recites a connector device for the production of an electrical connection between a mains cable and a cable harness in an electrical device, especially a household appliance. The device includes a first plug-in connector including connection elements coupleable to the cable harness. The connection elements effect a detachable mechanical and electrical connection between the first plug-in connector and the cable harness. The device also includes a second plug-in connector establishing a detachable mechanical and electrical connection to the mains cable, where the second plug-in connector is provided for a plurality of different mains cables and has an identical connector configuration for each of the different mains cables. The mains cable has a corresponding connector contact plug with an identical configuration regardless of the design of the mains contact plug and includes a cable

harness whose plurality of electrical conductors can be connected to the connector device by means of a single plug-in contact connection.

Independent claims 14 and 24 have been amended to clarify distinguishing structural features of the invention. In particular, claims 14 and 24 recite that the connector includes a first plug-in connector including connection elements coupleable to the cable harness of the electrical device, where the connection elements effect a detachable mechanical and electrical connection between the first plug-in connector and the cable harness. Support for this subject matter can be found in the specification in, for example, paragraphs [024] [027] and the drawings.

In contrast with the connector of the claimed invention, Machado discloses a ground potential adaptor that enables live and neutral contacts of a supply outlet to be *isolated* from live and neutral contacts of an electrical device. The adaptor 1 includes a prismatic body 2 with an end surface 3 having recesses 4, 5 and 6 shaped and positioned to accept the three connector pins of the equipment plug. An opposite end surface 7 includes an earth pin 8 that is connected electrically via conductor 9 and axially aligned with the recess 5. The adaptor serves to earth the equipment through the earth connection of the mains cable and to isolate the mains voltage by severing connections to the live and neutral pins of the equipment plug.

The connector device of the claimed invention rather facilitates a connection between a mains cable and an electrical device. Applicants thus respectfully submit that the rejection is misplaced.

Claims 15-23 depend from claim 14 and are allowable for the same reasons and also because they recite additional patentable subject matter. In this context, the Office Action appears to disregard features of the invention recited after the phrase “configured to.” Without conceding this contention, claims 15 and 16 have been amended to eliminate the phrase and more positively define structural features of the invention.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above, entry of the present Amendment and allowance of Claims 14-24 are respectfully requested. If the Examiner has any questions regarding this amendment, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned. If an extension of time for this paper is required, petition for extension is herewith made.

Respectfully submitted,

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